

Children's Hospital Association Medicaid Principles

April 2025

The principles below set the foundation for the Children's Hospital Association's policy and advocacy efforts with Congress and the Administration on Medicaid. Children's hospitals play a critical role in the health care of our nation's children and look forward to using these principles to guide our efforts to protect and strengthen the Medicaid program.

- **CHA prioritizes the critical importance of Medicaid to all children and the providers who care for them.** We ask federal policymakers to prioritize children when developing and advancing policies to ensure children benefit from these actions and do not experience unintended negative consequences. We also ask that policymakers recognize the critical role children's hospitals play in caring for our nation's children.
- **Any reforms or restructuring of Medicaid should focus on improvements for children and not constrain/limit funds negatively affecting children's coverage, access to health care, and support for the providers who care for them.** We oppose Medicaid block grants, per capita caps, reductions in federal matching rates, and other policy proposals that restrict the federal investment in Medicaid and cause children to lose ground. This would include changes to Medicaid financing and payment, including provider taxes, supplemental payments, and state directed payments that negatively impact children's access to needed health care.
- **Critical funding and payments to children's hospitals should be preserved and bolstered.** [On average](#), over 50% of the patients in children's hospitals are covered by Medicaid with some hospitals at nearly 75%. We recognize the critical contributions that state directed payment programs, provider taxes, and supplemental payments make to the financial sustainability of children's hospitals and oppose reforms that would cause financial strain on pediatric providers. Any payment reductions have significant impact on these hospitals and their ability to provide care for all children.
- **We strongly support the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit for children under Medicaid, ensuring access to all medically necessary care determined by their health care providers.** We ask policymakers to ensure that this benefit delivers on its promise to children with strong oversight and enforcement.
- **Children deserve access to medically necessary services.** Any reduction in support can have a direct impact on children's hospitals' ability to provide access to needed care for all children. Many families and pediatric patients who are treated at children's hospitals travel long distances to receive care and often have complex health needs. Increased investments are also needed throughout the pediatric health care system to ensure a robust pediatric provider workforce.

- **Children must have timely access without administrative barriers to the full range of age-appropriate health care providers, including pediatricians, pediatric specialists, and children's hospitals.** This includes accessing needed care outside a child's home state, which is often required when a child needs specialized services. We support robust research and development of pediatric-focused HCTs, ensuring that future innovations continue to address the pressing needs of the pediatric population. We are committed to ensuring that high-cost therapies are appropriately reimbursed and accessed by children under Medicaid.
- **Health care and treatment decisions for pediatric patients should be decided by their parents in consultation with their pediatric medical providers.** Children's hospitals prioritize the preventive care, physical, behavioral, and mental health, safety and well-being of children, adolescents, and young adults. Diagnostic and therapeutic care is guided by specialty-trained physicians and providers, each patient's individual health needs, and required family consent. High quality care—informing the best possible health outcomes and following public health standards—requires patients, families, and care teams working together to make medical decisions to meet the unique needs of each child, adolescent, and young adult.